

As I See It!

Written by Jeffrey L. Boney, Associate Editor
Thursday, 20 September 2012 09:09



Okay, so help me out here. Indulge me please. "It's the AS I SEE IT!"

As I see it, it is VERY CLEAR and QUITE SIMPLE that Black people had better wake up and get actively involved with politics, because if we don't we we will be on the outside looking in, with our hands out begging for a seat at the table.

And yes I said "BEGGING!"

As i see it, the Democratic Party, as it currently is, has too many competing interests to ensure that the issues in the Black community are a priority.

As I see it, if you look close enough nationally and locally, you can see which competing interests are dominating the Democratic Party. Many of these groups have an all-or-nothing approach concerning their interests, which in turn creates a spirit of disunity and a lack of unified momentum within the Party.

This is important to highlight because, over the last several decades, Black people have voted for Democratic candidates 94% of the time in critical federal and state elections.

Yeah, it was great to look at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte several weeks ago and see all of the Black faces mixed with faces from other races and backgrounds, come together for a common cause; but what really is going on within the Party?

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How many Blacks hold key positions within the Party, nationally and locally? The one Black female who sought to become the Democratic Party Chair in Harris County was turned on by the very Party she sought to represent and even her own people; Black people that is.



Let's just look at what happened with the election of the first Black President of the United States, Barack Obama. Not only was there record turnout from the Black community, there was record turnout from every voting group, both Republican and Democrat.

Voters let their voices be heard and told those newly elected officials that the "Hope and Change" that President Obama campaigned on. Constituents not only elected Obama, they also elected Democrats to represent them in many other critical elected positions. The Democrats were given control of the House and the Senate.

And what did they do as soon as they got control?

You guessed it; respective groups started squabbling, fussing and fighting over competing interests. Many Democrats voted against the President for political self-preservation or in order to have their way, even if it hurt the Party and the President.

And as all of this was occurring, the issues impacting the Black constituents got pushed farther and farther to the back of the bus.

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Black unemployment began to rise, poverty worsened, Blacks lost their one true asset (their homes) and people started to complain to President Obama that something needed to be done for Blacks. President Obama chastised the Blacks and told them to stop complaining and “take off their house shoes and put on their marching boots.”

Sadly, as i see it, that is what has become of Blacks within the Democratic Party. They seem to be only good for faithfully voting Democratic, without having a true voice and for hitting the pavement to rally the voters in the hood and in the church.

As I see it, there are many Black “leaders” within the Democratic Party that are afraid to stand up, come together and challenge those competing interests. Why? Because most of them fear losing support from those competing interests and potentially losing their political seat at the table.

As I see it, these so-called “leaders” are contributing to the erosion of Black strength within the Democratic Party. As I see it, Black people can complain all day about how “white” and “not culturally diverse” the Republican Party is, but when they come together, they come together.

As I see it, the Democratic Party is getting more and more fragmented, while the Republican Party remains consistent with their message and their actions, even if it costs them votes or support. They have conviction and stick to their guns for the whole of the Party.

At the end of the day, the Republican Party appears to be on one accord publicly, even when there maybe discord internally. This has not been the case with Democratic Party over the last several decades.

As i see it, Blacks have sadly become squatters, sitting there with their hands out, begging for scraps from the table; waiting to be given their next assignment and told their next move.

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Yeah, they may be personally living well and hooking a few of their close friends up with a few dollars here and there, but they operate on a survival-of-the-fittest model. Get all you can for yourself and voluntarily avoid political issues that allow you to live to see another day.

As i see it, Massachussets Governor Deval Patrick said it best at the Democratic National Convention when he told attendees that they needed to get some “backbone.”

As I see it, Black people had better wake up before they become familiar with sitting at the back of the bus again. This time though, it won't be anyone's fault but your own.

Just my observation. Feel free to disagree.

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Video Credit: [Enô Alfred](#) was born and raised in London after her parents relocated from Nigeria to attend the University

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